

AMERICANS HOLD MEUSE RIVER GAIN

Strengthen Newly Won Positions and Easily Repulse Counter Attacks.

30,000 CAPTIVES TO DATE

70,000 Casualties Inflicted on Foe and 40 Villages Freed in Present Drive.

By the Associated Press.
WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY NORTHWARD, Oct. 26.—The German effort to break up the American position on the Meuse river has been repulsed with heavy losses. From the extreme left to right artillery was employed, but without materially altering the situation. The Americans began the present battle they have inflicted more than 70,000 casualties on the enemy, freed 40 villages and captured 30,000 prisoners, besides the German wounded who fell into their hands.

The gains made Friday by the American troops east and west of the Meuse maintained to-day in spite of violent enemy opposition and a harassing artillery fire against the American front lines and the areas in the rear.

Machine Gun Fire Halted.
On the extreme left the Americans have strengthened their hold on the high ground in the southern part of the Bourgeois Wood. The American position in the wood is such that the Germans no longer are able to harass the Americans with machine gun fire from the ridge at the edge of the wood.

In the center of the line west of the Meuse the German artillery is bombarding the American lines heavily with the explosive and gas shells. On the right the enemy made an unsuccessful counter attack during the night. From 2 to 6 o'clock this morning they shelled the American lines there heavily, the bombardment at times reaching the intensity of a barrage, but there was no further infantry action.

One new division and one new regiment have been identified as having been added to the German strength against the Americans. The division is a second class one which is reported to have traveled more than any other in the German army. It has been successively on the eastern front, the Italian front, on the Somme and before St. Mihiel. The regiment belongs to the crack Twenty-second German Division.

Fighting Desperately.

Violent enemy reactions continue east of the Meuse and there has been desperate fighting all along the line. The American position now runs through the forest between the Belleu Wood and the Etraye Wood. The enemy's determination to hold the high ground east of the river is shown by the fact that he has thrown in one of his last remaining reserve divisions to check the American advance in the Belleu Wood, where the enemy is counter attacking persistently. The following document has been captured:

The enemy's crossing of the Meuse is to be prevented absolutely. Should he succeed in crossing he is to be driven back into the Meuse at once. The enemy must not get a foothold on this side of the Meuse under any circumstances. The last three words are capitalized. Not only in a defensive way, but by counter attacks the Germans are fighting desperately to carry out this order. This is shown by the futile attacks made Friday in the region south of Bantreville Wood, north of Rappes Wood and in the valley north of Bantreville.

GERMANS FORTIFYING MONS-MAUBEUGE LINE

British Make Hold Near Valenciennes Untenable.

By the Associated Press.
WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM, Oct. 26.—From statements of prisoners and liberated civilians it would appear that the Germans intended to hold along the present line around Valenciennes only long enough to complete the preparation for the defense before Maubeuge and Mons, to which they will retire shortly. Civilians report that troops were set to work on this line some time ago.

There was a battle in the Artois-Flanders sector, just south of Valenciennes. British cyclist patrols reached Arras at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The Germans threw in a vigorous counter attack along a considerable front, but their advanced troops were forced to fall back to the line of the railway. West of Familly the enemy made another fierce counter attack. They came up against Scotch Highlanders, who not only repulsed the attack, but drove the Germans back to the line of the railway. The enemy suffered heavy casualties here.

Counter attacks attempted north of Arras were easily repulsed. Machine gunners were heavily sacrificed by the enemy, and the advance, at least temporarily, was held up here by a terrific machine gun fire from the town. In Valenciennes, which was captured, the British found a well concealed system of camouflaged trenches. The whole village was barricaded and wired and presented a formidable obstacle, which evidently was meant to be held.

Yesterday's advance south of Valenciennes was rendered doubly hard by the extension of the flooded area. The British were forced to work around this. There was hard fighting west of Conde, and according to latest reports the enemy was battling fiercely to hold his position with a ring of forts.

An attempt by the British to cross the Rhonelle River between Arras and Familly was blocked early to-day by a heavy machine gun and artillery fire from the north bank of the river, but the attacking troops pushed ahead and established themselves along a line running from northeast of Sempres to just south of Arras.

Schwab Suffering From a Cold.
Charles M. Schwab is ill of a cold in his Riverside Drive home, but insisted last night that more alarming reports were entirely without basis in fact.

BRITON TO ADVISE COL. HOUSE

Sir William Wiseman Conferred Here With Mr. Wilson.

LONDON, Oct. 26.—The most important event in diplomatic circles in England this week was the arrival in London from Washington to-day of Sir William Wiseman, who has been acting as Washington liaison officer between the British War Cabinet and the Washington Government. Sir William on his arrival immediately went into conference with Lord Reading and members of the Cabinet. Within a few days he will proceed to Paris to join Col. House, now on a special mission from the United States. It has been learned that the day prior to sailing Sir William had a long conference with President Wilson. On the occasion of Col. House's previous visit to Europe, about a year ago, Sir William was one of his closest advisers, and he was very close to Col. House while in the United States.

PARIS GREET'S HOUSE AS OFFICIAL ENVOY

"La Liberté" Sees Political as Well as Military Unity.

PARIS, Oct. 26.—The newspapers regard the arrival of Col. Edward M. House, who is in Paris on a confidential mission for President Wilson, as of great importance to the United States as a step toward attaining political unity, which is considered to be equally as important as military unity. "The only positive declaration interviewers were able to obtain from him," says *La Liberté*, "was that he arrives as the official representative of the United States and the President. It is no longer a question of a private mission, but an official representation accredited to the European Allies. This is important. Henceforth the United States will be represented at the Inter-Allied Council of Versailles in complete fashion—no longer for military affairs only."

Col. House to-day issued a statement to the Associated Press as follows: "It is with the keenest pleasure that I find myself again in France. Upon my last visit, some eleven months ago, the Allies' fortunes, it seemed, had struck their lowest level. Those memorable days, when we counseled together and formulated plans for the military, naval and air operations and the coordination of war economies and industries, can never be forgotten. "From that hour the clouds began to lift, and we could see, dimly at first, the stars of hope and victory which to-day are shining with such a steady and effulgent glow."

"We are now confronted with different and more complex problems—problems which I feel confident will be met with high courage and with the wisdom which comes from lofty motives and unselfish hearts." Col. House told the semi-official Havas agency that his trip had no correlation with an armistice and he had not received from President Wilson and the American Government special powers to negotiate on this question. As regards future negotiations, which might arise, Col. House declined to talk.

The Colonel added that the American press has been a faithful interpreter of the general feeling of the United States during the exchange of notes with Germany.

FRENCH REFUGEES DIE OF EXPOSURE

Germans Steal Everything They Can Lay Hands On.

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 26.—Weather beaten refugees, mostly from the north of France, are trickling into the Dutch provinces of Brabant and Limburg. Some 2,000 are now accommodated in towns in these provinces. About 5 per cent. are ill from overexposure or influenza and are being cared for in hospitals and convalescent camps.

Distressing stories are told about the old people and babies who died from exposure on the way and were buried where they met their end. Further westward no exodus has yet taken place.

In view of the German disclaimers of pillaging by the retreating troops, it is significant that Dutch correspondents at half a dozen different points on the frontier should tell the same story obtained from refugees. "The Germans stole everything they could lay their hands on," a citizen of Bruges said to the Rosendal correspondent of the *Monsabode*. In the last few days the Germans have looted stores indiscriminately. One officer demanded that a city official surrender his carriage. Being asked later for a voucher, the officer pointed a revolver at the head of the owner and said: "This is my voucher."

Cartoons appeared in Bruges depicting the German Admiral Schroeder, whom Emperor William decorated for the "brilliant repulse" of the British attack on Zeebrugge, as fast asleep in a safe place far from the coast.

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AUSTRIA AND TURKEY ARE NEAR COLLAPSE

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ervers claim that the "unconditional surrender" or "no negotiations" policy has demonstrated its effectiveness, whereas the policy adopted toward Germany has permitted the Hohenzollerns to keep the German people together. The hope for a negotiated peace, it is contended, is the trump card which the Kaiser and the rulers of Germany are playing with the German people.

Just as the lack of hope for a negotiated peace has caused Austria to despair and collapse, hope for a negotiated peace has kept the German people solidly behind the Hohenzollerns in the opinion of many here. There is a growing belief in certain quarters that the Kaiser and the German military leaders are much stronger with the German people now than they were before President Wilson began his exchange of notes with the German Government.

LONDON, Oct. 26.—The Turkish Minister to Switzerland has handed the British and French Ministers to that country an offer of peace virtually amounting to surrender, according to a Berne dispatch to the Daily Mail.

VIENNA PAPERS TELL OF DEMOBILIZATION

Preparatory Action Taken, It Is Officially Said.

LONDON, Oct. 26.—An official statement, according to which the demobilization of the Austro-Hungarian army is being prepared, is published by the newspapers of Vienna, an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen says. The Czechs are now master of the situation at Prague. The Slovaks have decided to change the name of Prestrburg to Bratislava. The Ruthenians of Galicia have declared for a separate Ukrainian state comprising regions of Austria-Hungary inhabited by Ruthenians.

It is reported that anarchy reigns in the ancient Danubian monarchy of Hungary. The correspondent says that in Austria no notice is being taken of decisions arrived at by Berlin.

Purple Cord for Transport Corps.
WASHINGTON, Oct. 26.—Members of the army's new Motor Transport Corps have been given a purple hat cord and an insignia consisting of a bronze motor car wheel upon which is superimposed a winged hat.

Count Andrassy For Safety First
Advocates Direct Negotiations With Entente.

PARIS, Oct. 26.—In well informed circles it is said that the nomination of Count Julius Andrassy as successor of Baron Burián, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, is above all, important from the viewpoint of a conclusion of peace and an application of the "safety first" principle in Austria. It is said that peace at any price is now popular at Vienna and Budapest.

The Zurich correspondent of the *Journal* says that the new Foreign Minister is understood to be a partisan of direct peace negotiations with the Entente without recourse to the offices of President Wilson. He says that the situation in Austria-Hungary is such that the monarchy will soon capitulate and throw itself on the mercy of the Allies.

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GERMANY IS DIVIDED OVER WILSON REPLY

Continued from First Page.

condemns President Wilson's latest note, saying it is an alteration of his former standpoint and betrays lack of comprehension of recent events in Germany as well as a misconception of what has happened there. It is also said the note represents a concession to the demands of the allied nations.

Theodor Wolff, writing in the *Tagblatt* of Berlin, expresses great disappointment. He says it always has been a principle of international affairs not to interfere with the internal politics of other nations. President Wilson recognized this, he continues, in his Mexican speech in June, 1916, but now, Herr Wolff declares, this has been forgotten.

"The peace which the President proposes is to be a peace placing Germany at the mercy of its opponents. President Wilson's policy is one of brutal force. It is possible he hopes to sow dissension among the German people. We must be prepared for whatever may come."

The Socialist newspaper *Vorwaerts* of Berlin says it does not understand whether complete internal reform on the part of Germany would make the terms of surrender easier. It continues: "In any event, Mr. Wilson errs if he believes the former holders of power in Germany can ever regain their power. Henceforth there will be no power in Germany but that of the German people. Opponents who demand the dismantling of the German people must realize that a great nation cannot permanently be rendered defenseless. It will be demoralized at the peace conference, whether the war has been merely adjourned or finally ended."

Demands Cause Depression.
The Hamburg *Fremdenblatt*, which up to this time has been strongly conciliatory, says: "Whoever from the highest

duty to the fatherland considers President Wilson's note can conceive only the most unfavorable and depressing impressions. President Wilson's demands regarding armistice and internal questions are as little compatible with the honor of the German people as with their security."

The *Kreuz Zeitung* of Berlin, which hitherto has refrained from opposing President Wilson's demands, advocates war to the end. It says the President has posed himself for a last blow in the face of the German people, expressing his intentions with brutal frankness."

New Era for Alsace.
BASEL, Oct. 26.—The question of Alsace-Lorraine is purely a German internal question, declares Karl Hauss, the new Governor of Alsace-Lorraine, in a statement published in the *Strasbourg Gazette*. The statement is a reply to declarations made in the Reichstag by Dr. Georg Ricklin, a Deputy from Alsace-Lorraine, and amounts to a Governmental manifesto. It is issued in agreement with other Deputies from Alsace-Lorraine.

The statement of Herr Hauss declares that the future of Alsace-Lorraine must be decided by vote of the population and that it is an internal question in Germany with which a peace conference could have nothing to do. It concludes by saying that a new era is opening for Alsace-Lorraine which will enable the two provinces to form a point of reconciliation between France and Germany "and to collaborate in establishing a compromise between two civilizations called to work in common for the safety and prosperity of humanity."

Ex-Envoy Page Able to Sit Up.
Former Ambassador Page was able to sit up and move around yesterday for the first time since his fall at St. Luke's Hospital. Dr. F. W. Lambert, who is attending him, expressed the belief that Mr. Page would "very likely" have fully recovered in a few weeks' time.

U-BOATS BEING USED IN PEACE OFFENSIVE

Continued from First Page.

activity reached such a low state this week as to become almost negligible as a war measure notwithstanding that as many as more U-boats are lurking in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. The British Admiralty looks upon this situation as part of the German peace offensive. It is believed at the Admiralty that if Germany elects to fight to the end of her resources her greatest submarine effort may be expected late in December and in January.

German ships should not be set free after the war "to extend their share of the world's carrying trade and so profit by the losses which their Government by means mainly piratical had inflicted upon the ships of the Allies."

This plan is urged upon the British Government in a resolution adopted by the Council of the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom.

The Council points out that heavy losses have been suffered by shipping companies at the hands of the Germans. Half of Germany's shipping is declared to be in neutral or other ports, and Germany may have added to it by construction or purchase during the war. "The allied countries," the Council says, "will find themselves short of ships for some time after the war, and declares that while Germany cannot make restitution of all shipping sunk, there is no reason why she should not make restitution in kind to an extent to which she is able."

Shipping taken over from Germany, the Council suggests, should be distributed among the allied countries in proportion to their losses. Each country

should dispose of the tonnage among its subjects for cash. One British company at the beginning of the war had ten passenger steamships. Nine have been sunk by the Germans and the other captured. The Council declares it is inconceivable that so long as there is an enemy ship in existence the Germans should be permitted to have that ship while the steamship company which has lost all its tonnage is unable to resume its old trade.

SIX SWISS VISITORS DINED. George Creel Is Chief Speaker at Feast of Journalists.

The six Swiss journalists who have been touring this country as the guests of the Committee on Public Information attended a farewell dinner given at the Hotel Astor last night by the Swiss Club of New York. About 250 members of the Swiss colony of New York were present, led by Louis H. Junod, Swiss Consul-General. Dr. William Dreyfus was toastmaster. Present also were eighteen Swiss members of the French Foreign Legion.

George Creel, the principal speaker, told the journalists that not a dollar of American money had been spent for propaganda purposes. "In the German sense," in neutral countries, "the United States has no selfish ends to serve," he said. "What we have tried to do is to remove selfish prejudices that have kept the nations of the earth divided in the past. We have tried to introduce America to the world."

Great Saving by Skip Stops.
WASHINGTON, Oct. 26.—Operation of the skip stop system by street railway companies in twenty-four States for six months saved coal or its power equivalent at the rate of \$87,125 tons annually.

The Fuel Administration made public figures to-night showing the greatest saving in coal was in Massachusetts, estimated at 191,000 tons. Pennsylvania ranked second with an estimated saving of 169,200 tons. Missouri saved 52,422 tons. New York, 50,000; New Jersey, 32,000; Illinois, 25,000; Ohio, 23,000; and Michigan, 22,000.

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As artistic in appearance as it is in musical quality, a Vocalion may be chosen to harmonize with any room decoration, for, besides the handsome standard models, there are sixteen exquisite Period Styles at moderate prices.



MAURICE DAMBOIS was born in Liege, Belgium. Like most musical artists who are entitled to be called "great," his extraordinary talent became evident at a very early age. He made his debut before Her Majesty Queen Marie-Henriette of Belgium at Spa, playing the Saint-Saens Concerto in A Minor, and at the age of fifteen was acclaimed a virtuoso. "Dambois' tone is unsurpassed in its purity and depth, and his interpretations are characterized by a calm of poetic feeling."

A RECITAL will be given by Maurice Dambois at Aeolian Hall on October 29th, at 8:15 P.M. Hear Dambois play in person on Tuesday evening, and then come and hear the wonderful Vocalion Records of his playing.

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